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'Agility' called key asset for Racine's future

Business needs to be flexible in thinking, working, says author

By JENNIE TUNKIEICZ
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Jim Carroll, a futurist and innovation and trends expert, wants Racine County business leaders to learn and to live one word.

Agility.

Carroll isn't talking about the physical ability to scale a wall or touch one's toes. He's talking about agility in thinking, managing and manufacturing methods.

"One great word is agility. That's what we need, that's the trend, the capital we need. How do we develop the agility to deal with the future that is coming at us faster than ever before so that we can shift on a dime?" Carroll said.

Carroll will speak at the 21st anniversary celebration of the Racine County Economic Development Corp.

The event will be held starting at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Racine Marriott Hotel, 7111 Washington Ave., Mount Pleasant.

An example of agility is General Motors' plan to use a more flexible manufacturing model, said Carroll, author of "What I Learned From Frogs in Texas: Saving Your Skin with Forward-Thinking Innovation."

"That's a trend that impacts every manufacturer," Carroll said. "Consumers are coming to expect more choice."

Racine County is like many other communities that have found the old ways of doing business are no longer lucrative.

"Everywhere has been through a huge amount of complex and difficult change," Carroll said. "Too many of us sit back and say how we wish we could get things back to the way it was. It won't."

Communities like Racine have to continue to look ahead and to build on the community's attributes, he said. For Racine County, the attributes include things such as location, easy transportation, lifestyle and workforce, he said.

Carroll, who is from of Toronto, said communities need to recapture the spirit and the passion they once had.

"There was a perfect storm in 2000-2001, with the dot-com collapse, 9-11 and the war in Iraq," Carroll said. "If you look at the excitement that existed in the business community in the 1990s, there was a tremendous belief there was a lot of potential. That went away. A lot of folks stopped looking at the future. They have been getting too dispirited by what's happening in the context of globalization."

Recapture that positive attitude, Carroll said. See where the opportunities are, he said.

Specialized manufacturing, for example, is a growth area.

"To take on some of these higher skilled manufacturing jobs that won't go to China, we need to specialize, we need to upgrade skills," Carroll said.

"There is no easy answer and no easy solution other than a community saying it's not gong to continue sliding back, but it will have the spirit and momentum that will move it forward."

For information about the RCEDC's 21st anniversary celebration, call (262) 898-7400.

Fremont official puts Kraut Fest back on table

By SHEILA B. LALWANI
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Franksville — An Ohio-

The festival, held in June and perhaps best known for the World Championship

POLICE REPORTS

BURLINGTON

Disorderly conduct

A 37-year-old Burlington man was arrested May 16 on allegations of disorderly conduct, open intoxicants in public and failure to obey an officer in the 100 block of McHenry St. The man, according to a police report, was "extremely intoxicated" and had kicked

pects on allegations of a series of thefts from motor vehicles reported May 6 on the following streets: the 6000 block of Fayette Drive, the 2700 block of Catherine Drive, the 2500 block of Marigold Court, the 2400 block of Sunrise Road and the 7100, 7200 and 7300 blocks of Cliffside Drive. Victims reported the theft of cash, video games, CDs and a digital camera, which was found at a

RACINE

Burglary

Two saws, one worth $100 and the second valued at $150, were stolen May 15 from a home in the 1700 block of Racine St.

A $40 leaf blower, a $20 battery charger and a gas chain saw valued at $200 were stolen between May 14 and 17